



Germany: Facts & Figures February 2008

A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany

Politics

If Bundestag elections would be held on March 2, the CDU/CSU would receive 36% of the vote, the SPD 27%, the Green Party 10%, the FDP 10%, the Left Party 13%, and all other parties combined 4%. (Emnid. 02/026/08)

State Politics (Hamburg)

The CDU won the state parliament elections in Hamburg but lost its parliamentary absolute majority, setting the stage for complicated efforts to form a coalition. According to the results, the CDU got 42.7% (down 4.5% compared to the elections four years ago), the SPD got 34.1% (up 3.6%), the Greens 9.4% (down 2.9%), the FDP 4.8% (up 2%) and the Left Party won 6.5% (it ran for the first time this year). (Major papers, 02/25/08)

Economy

In February, the unemployment rate declined to 8.6% (January: 8.7%). (Federal Employment Agency. 02/28/08)

According to the ifo-index, business sentiment rose for the second month in February. Munich's ifo-institute said its business climate index rose to 104.1 in February, up from 103.4 in January and above the 102.8 forecast by analysts. (ifo. Major papers, 02/27/08)

Economic growth in Germany slowed in the fourth quarter of 2007 as a consequence of declining private consumption. GDP rose 0.3% during the quarter after increasing 0.7% in the third quarter. Overall economic growth for 2007 was 1.6%. (Federal Statistical Office, 02/15/08)

Wholesalers increased their prices last month by 6.6%, the highest increase in the past 25 years. The reason is the global increase in demand for food. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 02/14/08)

1,302 beer breweries existed in Germany in 2007. Nearly half of them (627) were located in Bavaria. More than 100 breweries are also located in Baden-Württemberg (182) and North Rhine-Westphalia (116). (Federal Statistical Office. 02/13/08)

Some 18% of businesses with 100 and more employees in Germany have relocated or will relocate part of their economic activities to foreign countries between 2001 and the end of 2009. 60% of these businesses relocated functions to the twelve new EU Member States, followed by China (36% of businesses) and the 15 other EU Member States (30%). Around 38% of businesses named several countries of destination so that responses do not add up to 100%. The economic activities concerned are for instance accountancy, call centre areas or parts of production. (Federal Statistics Office. Major papers, 02/07/08)

Society

In 2007, 89% of children between the age of three and five years attended day care centers, kindergartens or stayed with child minders for a few hours each day. 681 000 children below the age of six were in full day education and care services (more than 7 hours/day). Related to all children of that age group, the full day care ratio was 16% compared with 14.5% in 2006. (Federal Statistical Office. 02/13/08 and 02/22/08)

The number of foreigners living in Germany dropped by 0.1% in 2007 to 6.74 million foreigners. 25% of the foreigners hold Turkish citizenship, 8% are Italian and 6% from Poland. (Federal Statistical Office. Major papers, 02/19/08)

The number of foreign spouses who move to Germany from Turkey, Thailand, or Russia has dropped by 18.1% since the introduction of German language tests last year. Among Turks it dropped by 67%. (Sueddeutsche. 02/15/08)

Asked whether they have a good opinion of the economic system in Germany, 39% (32% in 2005) of respondents said 'yes,' while 27% (38% in 2005) said they have a bad opinion of the market economy. Asked whether the market economy is social, 58% (62% in 2006) said it is not social, while 30% (24% in 2006) said it is social. (FAZ, 02/08/08)

86% of Germans reject Bundeswehr combat missions in Afghanistan. (DeutschlandTrend. 02/08/08)

Support for the European Union in Germany has reached a ten-year high. 67% of Germans support Germany's membership in the European Union, 2% more than half a year ago. But only 39% (down 17%) have confidence in the EU's institutions. 28% support the acceptance of new EU members (down 6%). (Eurobarometer. Major papers, 02/01/08)

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